

All increased benefits would be the result of higher premiums deducted from military paychecks. Coverage usually costs approximately 8 cents per month per every thousand dollars of coverage. Again, this would be optional and it would be achieved at no additional cost to the government.

In fact, assuming that the pool of policy holders remains steady and perhaps increases due to this added incentive, it could lead to greater revenues for government coffers. We know that military service is dangerous. But, the already significant risk should not be compounded by additional financial risks to one's dependents.

My hope would be that not a single family ever has the need to take advantage of this increased level in benefits. But, even if that is the case—it still will have done some good for all of us.

A member of the military can carry out duties better if there are fewer worries about what could happen to his or her family.

And finally—as long as we are updating current law to reflect the true needs of members of the military—I think it is crucial that the law better reflects the true composition of the military.

As we all know, that includes women.

The same holds true for our country's economy, and the earnings of the typical family. A family's loss of income does not simply occur when a father or husband leaves his regular job for service—but when a mother or wife does so. Unfortunately, current law inexplicably uses the phrase "wife" to describe dependents eligible for protection while a member is on duty. My bill replaces such references with gender-neutral language.

Such a change has practical value. Let's make certain that no court or agency denies a family relief on the basis that a mother or wife serves her country. Yet, if some people think that changing the language in this manner is mostly "symbolic"—so be it. This is a time when symbolism matters.

And, among our foes is a Taliban that degrades women to a degree that is beneath civility and decency. Let's take every opportunity to remind them—and ourselves—that our country's success and our country's strength is achieved because in our nation women can carry out any role that they choose for themselves.

I am confident that my colleagues will join me in agreeing that risking life and limb for one's nation should never be compounded by a family's potential loss of shelter or economic security. Please join me and cosponsor my bill, H.R. 3173.

#### HONORING JARVIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

#### HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jarvis Christian College, the Tom Joyner Foundation's historically black "College of the Month" for October.

All too often, a student enters college only to encounter financial challenges that force him or her to drop out of school. As a nationally syndicated radio personality, Tom Joyner

uses his platform to raise money to help students continue their education at black colleges. Every month, the foundation selects an Historically Black College or University to receive funds raised during that month. During the month of October, Joyner will encourage individuals, groups, organizations, and Jarvis alumni to make financial contributions to Jarvis.

Over the past year, the Tom Joyner Foundation has raised more than \$500,000 for deserving students. The money is given directly to the school and its students. Additionally, the Ronald McDonald House Charities has pledged to provide 50 cents for every dollar, up to \$333,000 donated, for this year.

I am very proud of Jarvis for being chosen by the Tom Joyner Foundation to receive these important funds for its students. Located in Hawkins, Texas, Jarvis Christian College has lived up to its mission to provide a quality liberal arts education that prepares students "intellectually, socially, and personally to function effectively in a global and technological society."

Founded in 1912, Jarvis Christian College held its first formal classes in January 1913, with 12 elementary-level students. Only two years later, the school began officially teaching high school courses. Further, until 1937, it was the only accredited high school exclusively for African Americans in the area.

In 1927, Jarvis began offering junior college courses, and the school was accredited as a college the next year. Since that time, Jarvis has been an East Texas institution, an excellent choice for students who wish to develop their skills and talents to their highest levels of ability.

For 90 years, Jarvis Christian College has given hope and opportunity to the African American community of East Texas, guaranteeing students a quality education within a solidly Christian environment. This year, Jarvis was ranked among the top "Comprehensive Colleges" in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

I would like to thank the Tom Joyner Foundation for its mission to support Jarvis Christian College's motto: "The college with the personal touch, where dreams come true!"

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the Women's Caucus and add my strong support to the struggle against domestic violence.

October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is an opportunity for us to remember those who have been victims of abuse, to support those who are survivors, and to assist those who labor on a daily basis to put an end to this horrible violence.

While the devastating physical and emotional consequences of domestic violence have been well documented, less attention has been paid to the economic reasons women stay victim to their abusers. Far too many victims remain in abusive relationships because of their inability to financially support themselves and their children.

Lack of affordable childcare, inaccessibility to job training and healthcare programs, and low wages are a few of the obstacles women face when they wish to leave an abusive home. Those who are able to find employment often find it difficult, if not impossible, to keep a job because of the consequences of domestic abuse such as: lower productivity, reduced attendance, and the higher risk of insurance and healthcare costs to employers. In addition, employed victims of abuse live with the added fear of losing their job if they take time off from work to seek help for themselves and their families.

Unfortunately, current law does not specifically allow women to take leave from work to effectively deal with the abuse in their lives. Nor does the law often allow women who leave work as a result of domestic violence to collect unemployment compensation.

These realities faced by abused women often hinder their ability to seek or maintain employment. As a result, far too many women are left with the terrifying choice of staying with their abusers or becoming homeless, often with their children. In fact, the Downtown Women's Center of Los Angeles recently conducted a needs assessment among 400 homeless women in Los Angeles. Of those interviewed, 58.5 percent had experienced domestic violence in their lifetime, and 39.5 percent had experienced domestic violence as recently as the previous year.

To address the needs of victims of abuse, I have introduced the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act in the House of Representatives. My legislation is specifically designed to help victims of domestic violence retain their employment and financial independence, by ensuring that they are allowed to take time off from work to make necessary court appearances, seek legal assistance, contact law enforcement officials or make alternative housing arrangements, without the fear of being fired or demoted. Further, to ensure victims can retain the financial independence necessary to leave their abusers and avoid having to rely on welfare or become homeless, my bill requires states to provide unemployment benefits to women who are forced to leave work as a result of domestic violence. This legislation currently has the bipartisan support of 106 of my colleagues in Congress.

Obviously, we cannot legislate the problem of domestic violence away. An important step we can take, however, is to create a system that gives women a fighting chance to remove themselves and their children from abusive environments. As a nation, we must develop and implement laws that provide the support necessary to ensure the safety and security of our most vulnerable citizens. No woman should ever have to choose between physical safety or financial security for herself or her family.

#### TRIBUTE TO LYNN SWANN ON HIS ENSHRINEMENT IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE HALL OF FAME

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to San Mateo County native and